

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02927 081130Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5362
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, US, GR, TU
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS SPEAKS OUT ON EMBARGO

REF: ATHENS 2918

1. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ISSUED HIS FIRST PUBLIC
STATEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SEEK THE
LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO THE EVENING OF APRIL 7 AND IT IS
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02927 081130Z

THE LEAD STORY IN THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV TODAY
APRIL 8. THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS ENTITLED
TO DETERMINE ITS RELATIONS WITH TURKEY ACCORDING TO
ITS JUDGMENT. BUT IT CANNOT DO SO IN A MANNER HARMFUL
TO THE INTERESTS OF GREECE OR CYPRUS. SPECIFICALLY

WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS, THE PROBLEM WAS FURTHER COMPLICATED RATHER THAN HELPED TOWARDS A SOLUTION FOR WANT OF A STABLE BRACKETS OR STEADY BRACKETS AND CONSISTENT POLICY ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. IN ANY CASE, AND REGARDLESS OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SHAPE ITS POLICY, GREECE IS DETERMINED AND ABLE TO PROTECT HER NATIONAL INTERESTS. END QUOTE

2. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIAL GOG SPOKESMAN HAS DENIED OPPOSITION AND PRESS CHARGES THAT THE GOG HAD EARLIER AVOIDED TAKING A STAND ON THE USG DECISION TO SEEK REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO. THE SPOKESMAN POINTED TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AVEROFF'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 2 CRITICIZING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL AS WELL AS PRIVATE DEMARCHES TO THE USG WHICH, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, WERE ALONG THE LINES OF CARAMANLIS' PUBLIC DECLARATION. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF THE EMBARGO QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT. THE SPOKESMAN SAID RATHER THAN A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, WHICH OPPOSITION LEADERS ON THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE SEEKING, CARAMANLIS WOULD BE AT THE DISPOSAL OF PARTY LEADERS TO BRIEF THEM ON THE SUBJECT.

3. THE ONLY POLITICAL LEADER TO REACT THUS FAR TO CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT WAS ZIGDIS OF THE UNION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 02927 081130Z

DEMOCRATIC CENTER WHO STATED THAT HE WAS NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

4. THE APRIL 8 PRESS IS COMPLETELY DOMINATED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPLAUDS IT, EVEN PAPERS WHICH NORMALLY OPPOSE CARAMANLIS. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS EMPHASIZE HIS ASSERTION THAT GREECE WILL PROTECT ITS INTERESTS WHILE THE OPPOSITION--AND ANTI-AMERICAN--PRESS IS PLAYING UP HIS IMPLICATION THAT THE U.S. IS DAMAGING GREEK INTERESTS.

5. THE ONLY OTHER PRESS STORY WORTHY OF SPECIAL NOTICE IS A TO VIMA REPORT THAT INCLUDES THE ASSERTION BY THE PAPER'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, EFSTATHIADIS, THAT HE WAS TOLD BY A TURKISH DIPLOMAT THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WHICH HE FOUND TO BE "CONSTRUCTIVE." SO FAR NONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS HAS CARRIED ANY COMMENT ON THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN HIS HIRC STATEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD OPPOSE MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO DISPUTES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

MCCLOSKEY

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